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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/473,410

01/06/00

PILLERS

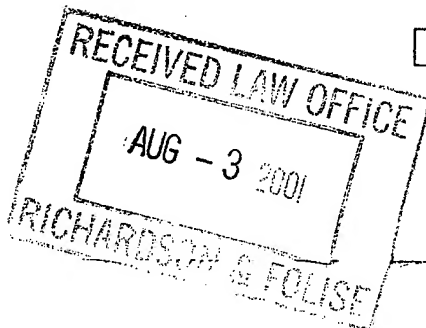
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PA19.P15

EXAMINER

RICHARDSON & FOLISE  
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SEATTLE WA 98101

QM12/0731



ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3727  
DATE MAILED:

07/31/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/479,410

Applicant(s)

PILLERS ET AL.

Examiner

Robin A. Hylton

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on May 15, 2001 have been approved by the examiner.
2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the arcuate shape of the timing means must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The structural relationship between the parts of the lid is not clearly set forth. It is suggested -- radially -- be inserted before "inwardly".

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. Claims 11, 17-19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feltman, III et al (US 5,680,951).

Feltman teaches a lid substantially as claimed, except for bayonet ears on the cap and base members for engagement therebetween. Feltman discloses at column 2, lines 36-39 that mating threads can be utilized between the cap and base members for joining the cap and base members. Official notice is taken that it is old and well known in the closure art to substitute bayonet structure for screw threads.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute bayonet ears for screw threads on the cap and base members. Doing so

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would allow quick-action screwing engagement and disengagement between the cap and base members.

Regarding claims 17 and 18, the spacing of the bayonet structure of Feltman is not expressly taught. It is old and well known to provide bayonet structure on mating surfaces in any angular configuration desired for the quick engagement between two components.

Regarding claim 20, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute screw threads for snap bead configuration on the base member. Doing so would allow for a more secure engagement between the lid and a container without spilling caused by snapping the lid onto a container filled too close to capacity.

5. Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feltman in view of Dodge (US 1,907,254).

Feltman teaches the claimed lid except for timing means.

Dodge teaches a lid and container having timing means for limiting the relative rotation between the components.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of timing means to the lid of Feltman. Doing so would provide a mechanism for limiting relative rotation between the lid components to ensure the relative position therebetween is maintained as desired.

Regarding claims 13-16, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the timing means of any shape since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the shape of a component. A change in shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Dailey*, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

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6. Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but appears to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 1-10 appear to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

**Conclusion**

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lid having inner and outer components with alignable openings are cited of interest.

9. In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703)305-3579. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 3720 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

10. It is called to applicant's attention that if a communication is faxed before the reply time has expired, applicant may submit the reply with a "Certificate of Facsimile" which merely asserts that the reply is being faxed on a given date. So faxed, before the period for reply has expired, the reply may be considered timely. A suggested format for a certificate follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ is being facsimiled to The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via fax number (703) 305-3579 on the date shown below:

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

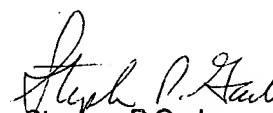
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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robin Hylton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1208. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers should be directed to Errica Bemby at (703)306-4005.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3579.

Robin A. Hylton/rah  
July 26, 2001



Stephen P. Garbe  
Primary Examiner